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The Clergy Receives High Ethical Marks

The clergy in recent years has gotten some black eyes from the press as a result of the peccadilloes and moral offenses of some of its more visible members, but despite the unfavorable publicity, a majority of the public continues to rate the honesty and standards of the profession highly.

In the most recent comparative rating of a wide range of professions taken by The Gallup Poll, 12% of the public said the clergy rated "very high" on honesty and ethical standards, and 43% gave a rating of "high." One person in three (35%) believes the clergy are only average in these respects, but less than one person in 10 holds the negative opinion that clergy standards are either low (6%) or very low (1%).

The clergy have always ranked first or second among the professions tested since their first rating was taken by The Gallup Poll in 1977. Currently, they are second to pharmacists and druggists (62%, favorable ratings) who took over first place in 1988. Previous to that time, highly positive ratings of the clergy steadily climbed from 61% in 1977 to 67% in 1985.

The clergy are in good company, as they are followed closely in the current rankings by physicians (52%), dentists (52%), college academicians (51%), and engineers (50%). By contrast, at the very bottom of the list of the 25 professions and occupations that were tested, are such people as stockbrokers (14%), insurance salesmen (13%), and practitioners (12%), and car salesmen (6%).

Although the clergy have maintained their relative position in the overall standings, when the results are based on an absolute standard of comparison to the past, there is a strong suggestion that the televangelist scandals probably have been at least partially, if not wholly, responsible for a significant negative shift in opinion towards the profession. After peaking at 67% of highly favorable opinion in 1985, ratings of the field dropped to 60% by 1988, and yet another five percentage points to the current rating of 55% in 1990. Furthermore, between 1988 and 1990, the proportion rating the clergy "very high" for their honesty and professional standards, dropped 10 percent points, from 22% to just 12%.

The most recent results are based on telephone interviews by The Gallup Poll

with a randomly selected national sample of 1,228 adults, 18 and older, conducted February 8 to 11, 1989. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be plus or minus 4 percentage points.

High Ethics and Standards - 1989

Pharmacists	62%
Clergy	55
Physicians	52
Dentists	52
College teachers	51
Engineers	50
Police	49
Funeral directors	35
Bankers	32
TV reporters	32
Journalists	30
Business executives	25
Newspaper reporters	24
Senators	24
Lawyers	22
Local office holders	21
Building contractors	20
Congressmen	20
State office-holders	17
Real estate agents	16
Labor union leaders	15
Stockbrokers	14
Insurance salesmen	13
Ad practitioners	12
Car salesmen	6

Percent Ranking Clergy Very High Or High

	%	Rank
1990	55	2nd
1988	60	2nd
1985	67	1st
1983	64	1st
1981	63	1st
1977	61	1st

Religious Revival Expected in Eastern Europe

Three Americans in four (74%) believe religion will play a more important role in people's lives in Eastern Europe as a result of the changes taking place there. Only 15% see religion as playing a lesser role, while the remaining 11% either say there will be no change or hold no opinion on the matter.

Americans also show great optimism that the peoples of Eastern Europe will soon enjoy greater political freedom than in the past (88%), and that their economic well-being will improve (61%).

With progress in religious, political and economic matters, however, it is believed there will also be an increase in social problems such as poverty, hunger and alcoholism, according to a plurality of the respondents. Predicting that progress will be achieved only at the price of increasing social tensions are 46% of Americans, while only 37% believe reform will relieve the problems, and 7% say matters will be unchanged.

Few people foresee a hard-line crack-down (21%) on the reforms that are sweeping the Eastern European countries, and two in three (68%) expect a continuation of the political reform movement.

Opinion is divided on whether or not the events in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union foretold the end of communism in the world, with 46% believing the ideology will soon meet its demise, and 47% feeling that it will not. Only about one person in four (27%) believes that now is a good time to take advantage of the reform atmosphere by pressuring Premier Gorbachev to make concessions on human rights, regional conflicts, and other areas of differences between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

***They shall beat their swords
into plowshares, and their
spears into pruning hooks:
nation shall not lift up
sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war
anymore.***

Isaiah 2:4

Despite the almost revolutionary changes and sometimes violent disputes that are taking place in their country, a survey of residents of Moscow showed that their optimism about the prospects for worldwide peace in 1990 is the greatest for any of the peoples tested in a 36-country international survey. Two in three Muscovites believe that 1990 will be a more peaceful year (64%), and only 11% feel the world will be more troubled by international disputes, or will remain the same (16%). This is the third year in a row that Muscovites have ranked first among those expecting greater peace prospects for the coming year.

The only Eastern European country taking part in the survey was Hungary, and its people are far less optimistic about in-

ternational peace this year, as 22% expect more peace, 31% predict more conflict, and 29% say worldwide tensions will remain the same.

The people of West Germany rank among the most optimistic in Western Europe in their predictions for world peace, but the citizens of neighboring France, perhaps uneasy about the prospect of German reunification, are among those most troubled about the coming year.

In the Holy Land which has seen so much conflict in recent years, the people of Israel on balance are more likely to expect peace in the world in 1990 (36%), than to see an increase in tensions (23%) or no change (20%).

Only a slight plurality of Americans believe 1990 will be more peaceful (37%), while others foresee a worsening of international tensions (26%), or no change (32%). This however, marks a considerable improvement over the previous year when just 30% expected a decrease in disputes in the world. Indeed, Americans could be said to be viewing the coming decade with greater optimism than in the previous 10 years when positive predictions for peace were found among an average of only 16% of the population.

The results for the United States are based upon a telephone survey of a nationwide sample of 1,235 adults, ages 18 and older, conducted in the period of December 7 to 10, 1989. In 95 out of 100 cases, results based on national samples of this size can be expected to vary by no more than 3 percentage points (plus or minus the figure obtained) from the results that would be obtained if every adult in the country were interviewed in the same way.

Changes in Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe . . .	Total
People will enjoy greater political freedom	88%
Religion will play greater role	74
The reforms will continue	68
Economic well-being will improve	66
Social tensions will increase	46
Believe this is the beginning of the end of world communism	46

World Peace in 1990

	More peaceful	Remain same	More troubled
USSR (Moscow only)	64%	16%	11%
Hungary	22	29	31
West Germany	30	32	25
France	10	42	39
Israel	36	20	23
United States	37	32	26

Teens Nix School Uniforms

School uniforms, so often associated with church-related schools, have been making a comeback in a few communities, but not many teens across the country show any interest in them. Some school administrators have felt that uniforms would lessen peer pressures upon children to dress up in expensive designer clothes or don the latest "in" athletic shoes, or would decrease the embarrassment of underprivileged youngsters whose parents cannot afford good clothing for them.

Only one teen in three, however, feels a great deal (15%) or even some (18%) peer pressure to have expensive togs. Fewer teens (19%) see any need to have greater regulation of the way students dress for school. Instead, 20% say they are content with current dress codes, and a majority of 58% would argue for even less regulation.

As for school uniforms, the concept appeals to only about one student in eight, with 5% rating it an excellent idea, and 8% saying it would be a good practice. Even among Catholic teens, who probably are the most likely to have had current or past experience with school uniforms, only 15% give them a positive rating.

The findings are from a Gallup Youth Survey conducted by telephone in November 1989 among a nationwide sample of 500 teen-agers, 13 to 17 years of age.



Attitudes Towards School Dress

Peer pressure to wear expensive clothes

Great deal	15%
Some	18
Hardly any	27
None	39
Not sure	1

School regulation of how people dress

Want more	19%
No change needed	20
Want less	58
Not sure	3

School uniforms

Excellent idea	5%
Good	8
Fair	13
Poor	73
Not sure	1

Religious Experience of Young Canadians

Beliefs

Existence of God	84%
Divinity of Christ	81
Life after death	65
Astrology	49

Religious preference

Roman Catholic	45%
Protestant	32
Jewish	1

Attitudes and behavior

Highly value acceptance by God	29%
Religion will increase its influence in the future	18
Attend services weekly	17
Important to live out faith in everyday life	16
Highly value religion	14
God has great influence on respondent's life	12

Youth

Young Canadians Profess Beliefs, But See Little Impact on Daily Lives

Ottawa — Most Canadian youths say they believe in God and state a religious preference, but few say religion is very important in their lives.

Eight Canadians in 10, who are between the ages of 15 and 24, say they believe in God (84%) and in the divinity of Jesus Christ (81%). Two in three (65%) believe there is life after death. These levels of belief are about the same as are found in Gallup surveys among young people in the United States, with only minor differences that probably are accounted for by slight differences in how the questions are asked in each country.

Despite their religious beliefs, half of the Canadian youth (49%) also believe in astrology — again, about the same proportion as among young Americans who claim there are zodiacal influences upon their lives.

By stated religious preference, young Canadian Roman Catholics outnumber Protestants, by a margin of 45% to 32%. Only 1% say they are Jewish, 2% report they are adherents of some other religious group, and 20% claim they have no preference. The most recent Canadian Census data report 50% Catholic and 40% Protestant youth, but these data often are provided by adults in the household and generally under-report those who have no preference.

Less than one in five of the young Canadians (17%) reports attendance of weekly worship services on a weekly basis.

Three in 10 (29%) young Canadians say they highly value being accepted by God, but only 16% think it is important for them to live out their faith in everyday life. Similarly, only 14% say they highly value their religion, and 12% that God has great influence upon their lives. Given this stance, it is not too surprising then that only 18% believe religion will increase its influence in the future.

Donald Posterski and Reginald Bibby who conducted the study concluded from these findings that "values and ethical

codes are no longer being transmitted through religious institutions for the majority of Canadian young people." They raise the questions, "How are values now being transmitted from one generation to the next? How can young people be enabled to establish convictions and ethics in today's complex society?"

The survey was conducted by The Canadian Gallup Poll between October 26 and December 22, 1987. A nationwide sample of 2,033 young people, ages 15 to 24, was interviewed in person. There is a 95% probability that a representative sample of this size permits accurate generalizations to be made of the Canadian population, within an error range of 3 percentage points either way. The study is entitled "Canada's Youth 'Ready For Today,'" and was directed by Posterski and Bibby for the Minister of State for Youth, Fitness and Amateur Sport.

"Values and ethical codes are no longer being transmitted through religious institutions . . ."

Mother Teresa One of Most Admired Women of the 1980s Decade

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was second only to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as the woman that America's adults most admired in 1989. She ranked sixth among those named by teen-agers in 1989 as the women they most admire.

She first appeared on the adults' list in 1979 when she was third. In 1980 she tied for first place with Rosalynn Carter. She was alone in first place in 1986.

When the adult votes for 1980s are combined, she ranks second for the decade. Among teen-agers she ranks third for the same period. Margaret Thatcher ranks first among adults, and Nancy Reagan first among teen-agers for the 1980s.

As reported in last month's issue of **Emerging Trends**, many men who are known primarily for their religious works have appeared on the most-admired lists and have even dominated them at times, but Mother Teresa is the only woman from the religious world to have been named by either adults or teens in recent years.

Indeed, the only other woman from the world of religion to have been named in the past was charitable worker Sister Kenny, who appeared on the lists in the period of 1948 to 1951. She was first in 1951.

The lists were compiled by asking respondents to volunteer names of their first and second choices of women they most admire, as follows:

What woman that you have heard or read about, living today in any part of the world, do you admire the most? And who is your second choice?

The findings for any given year reflect the combined first and second-place votes. The overall findings for the 1980s were compiled by scoring and ranking the findings for each year; i.e., a first-place vote received 10 points, a second-place vote 9 points, third-place 8 points . . . tenth-place 1 point.

Results for adults are based upon surveys each year conducted by The Gallup

Most Admired Women of the 1980s

Choices of adults

1. Margaret Thatcher
2. Mother Teresa
3. Nancy Reagan
4. Betty Ford
5. Corazon Aquino
6. Geraldine Ferraro
7. Barbara Walters
8. Jacqueline Onassis
9. Sandra Day O'Connor
10. Rosalynn Carter

Choices of teen-agers

1. Nancy Reagan
2. Margaret Thatcher
3. Mother Teresa
4. Geraldine Ferraro
5. Princess Diana
6. Sandra Day O'Connor
7. Oprah Winfrey
8. Whitney Houston
9. Jane Fonda
10. Madonna

Poll in person or by telephone among nationwide samples of 1,000 to 1,500 adults, age 18 and older. For results based on this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 to 4 percentage points in either direction. The results for teen-agers are based upon telephone surveys conducted by The Gallup Youth Survey among representative national cross sections of 500 or more young men and women, ages 13 through 17. The error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 4 percentage points in either direction.

Most Admired Women - 1989

Choices of adults

1. Margaret Thatcher
2. Mother Teresa
3. Barbara Bush
4. Nancy Reagan
5. Corazon Aquino
6. Oprah Winfrey
7. Betty Ford
8. Princess Diana
9. Sandra Day O'Connor
10. Jacqueline Onassis

Choices of teen-agers

1. Nancy Reagan
2. Barbara Bush
3. Oprah Winfrey
4. Margaret Thatcher
5. Paula Abdul
6. Mother Teresa
7. Debbie Gibson
8. Christie Brinkley
9. Janet Jackson
10. Whitney Houston

"The only other woman from the world of religion named in the past was Sister Kenny"

Religion in America 1990 — What's Ahead for the Decade as We Approach the Second Millennium?

RELIGION IN AMERICA 1990 reports trends in religious beliefs and practices, as well as religion's impact on American society. It is published by the Princeton Religion Research Center. What makes the current issue even more timely is the special introduction by George Gallup, Jr. In this commentary you will get a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities that organized religion will face in the crucial decade ahead.

How important will our faith be as we all age over the next ten years? One new indication is the examination of change of faith in the life cycle. As demographic factors shift over the next decade, so will the religious priorities and needs of all population groups. Especially emphasized in this edition are answers to what can we expect from the younger generation, today's teens and college-age people. Observing trends in these areas gives us a better understanding of where tomorrow's future leaders stand today.

As well as exploring the standard indicators such as Church membership and attendance, this index delves into the complex areas of values and felt needs. It provides a clear picture of how religion interacts with these important factors.

Don't miss this important edition of Religion in America. The cost per copy is only \$30.00, plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. Make checks payable to Princeton Religion Research Center, 100 Palmer Square P.O. Box 389, Princeton, New Jersey 08542.

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